

Rep. George Santos won't seek reelection after scathing ethics report cites evidence of lawbreaking

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Ethics Committee in a scathing report Thursday said it has amassed "overwhelming evidence" of lawbreaking by Republican Rep. George Santos of New York that has been sent to the Justice Department, concluding flatly that he "cannot be trusted" after a monthslong investigation into his conduct. Shortly after the panel's report was released, Santos blasted it in a tweet on X as a "disgusting politicized smear" but said he would not be seeking reelection to a second term. He gave no indication, however, that he would step aside before his term ends next year, vowing to pursue his "conservative values in my remaining time in Congress." But a renewed effort to expel him from the House was quickly launched. The House could vote on his expulsion as soon as it returns from the Thanksgiving holiday later this month.

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Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., speaks to reporters as he leaves the federal courthouse in Central Islip, N.Y., Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

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Rep. George Santos won't seek reelection after scathing ethics report cites evidence of lawbreaking

From Front

The panel said that Santos knowingly caused his campaign committee to file false or incomplete reports with the Federal Election Commission, used campaign funds for personal purposes and violated the Ethics in Government Act concerning financial disclosure statements filed with the House.

"Representative Santos sought to fraudulently exploit every aspect of his House candidacy for his own personal financial profit," an investigative subcommittee said in a 56-page report that the full committee unanimously adopted.

The report also detailed Santos' lack of cooperation with its investigation and said he "evaded" straightforward requests for information. "Particularly troubling was Representative Santos' lack of candor during the investigation itself," the committee determined.

The panel tasked with investigating the allegations against Santos provided him the chance to submit a signed, written statement, provide documents responsive to the panel's request for information and to provide a statement under oath. But he did not do



Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., speaks to reporters outside the Capitol, in Washington, May 17, 2023. Associated Press

so, the report said. The information that he did provide, according to the committee, "included material misstatements that further advanced falsehoods he made during his 2022 campaign."

The committee's investigative panel said that without Santos' cooperation, it was unable to verify whether some expenses reported by his campaign were legitimate. But certain expenses on their face did not appear to have a campaign nexus. For example, it cited \$2,281 spent at resorts in Atlantic City and \$1,400 spent at a skin spa for what one

spreadsheet described as "Botox."

The panel also identified a \$3,332 expense for a hotel stay, though the campaign's calendar indicated he was "off at the Hampton's for the weekend." And there were tax and hotel charges on the campaign credit card from Las Vegas, during a time Santos told his campaign staff he was on his honeymoon and there were no corresponding campaign events on the calendar. The investigation also looked into at least \$200,000 that was transferred from a Florida-based company,

RedStone Strategies LLC, to Santos' personal bank accounts. The report said at least three people transferred money to RedStone after being told the money would be used for political purposes but the funds were transferred to Santos' personal accounts.

Santos used some of that money to pay down credit card bills, make a \$4,128 purchase at high-end retailer Hermes, and for smaller purchases at OnlyFans, an adult content website, Sephora and meals and parking, investigators said. The Ethics Committee determined that Santos' con-

duct "warrants public condemnation, is beneath the dignity of the office, and has brought severe discredit upon the House."

The findings by the investigative panel may be the least of Santos' worries. The congressman faces a 23-count federal indictment that alleges he stole the identities of campaign donors and then used their credit cards to make tens of thousands of dollars in unauthorized charges. Federal prosecutors say Santos, who has pleaded not guilty, wired some of the money to his personal bank account and used the rest to pad his campaign coffers.

Santos, who represents parts of Queens and Long Island, is also accused of falsely reporting to the Federal Election Commission that he had loaned his campaign \$500,000 when he actually hadn't given anything and had less than \$8,000 in the bank. The fake loan was an attempt to convince Republican Party officials that he was a serious candidate, worth their financial support, the indictment says.

The Justice Department declined to comment about the ethics report, as did the Brooklyn U.S. attorney's office, which is handling the case against Santos. □



A tanker seen anchored at the new oil export terminal in the far eastern port of Kozmino on Dec. 28, 2009.

Associated Press

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Treasury on Thursday imposed a new round of

sanctions on firms and ships that used American service providers to carry Russian crude oil in violation of the multinational price cap —

U.S. imposes new sanctions over Russian oil price cap violations, Kremlin influence in the Balkans

and imposed another set of sanctions on a group of Balkan people and firms tied to Kremlin influence in the region.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed sanctions on three United Arab Emirates-based firms and blocked three ships that used U.S. service providers to carry Russian crude oil above the \$60 price cap.

The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and com-

panies from doing business with Americans. The actions on the ships blacklist them from transporting goods with U.S. service providers. The U.S., along with the EU, countries in the Group of Seven and Australia, imposed a \$60 a barrel limit last year on what Russia could charge for its oil. The cap is designed to deprive the Kremlin of revenue to fund its war in Ukraine, forcing the Russian government either to sell its oil at a discount or find a costly alternative shipping network.

Treasury in October imposed its first set of sanctions on two companies that shipped Russian oil in violation of a multinational price cap.

"We are committed to maintaining market stability in spite of Russia's war against Ukraine, while cutting into the profits the Kremlin is using to fund its illegal war and remaining unyielding in our pursuit of those facilitating evasion of the price cap," said Wally Adeyemo, Treasury's deputy secretary. □

China's agreement expected to slow flow of fentanyl into U.S.

By GEOFF MULVIHILL

Associated Press

Experts say new steps China has agreed to will eventually reduce the flow of the deadly opioid fentanyl into the U.S., but that alone will not stem the overdose crisis killing Americans at a record rate.

President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at a meeting Wednesday in California that China is telling its chemical companies to curtail shipments to Latin America and elsewhere of the materials used to produce fentanyl, which is largely finished in Mexico and then smuggled into the U.S.

China has also resumed sharing information about suspected trafficking with an international database.

"It's a step in the right direction because not doing this would be negligent," said Adam Wandt, an associate professor of public policy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "If this is a diplomatic option that we did not take, every fentanyl death over the next decade would be on our heads."

But he and others described the steps as necessary in addressing the overdose crisis in the U.S. — but not sufficient.

Wandt said the steps should reduce the amount of fentanyl in the U.S., though when that happens depends on how much of the chemicals are already in possession of Mexican cartels. And even if fentanyl is eradicated, he said, "they will switch to another drug, which I predict will be even more lethal."

Kevin Roy, the chief public policy officer at Shatterproof, a national group dedicated to combatting the addiction and overdose crisis, said that the steps announced were crucial, but they still have to be carried out.

"It's only one part of a bigger picture," Roy said.

He was also concerned that the nations did not reach any agreements on how to deal with laundering drug money through



President Joe Biden greets China's President Xi Jinping at the Filoli Estate in Woodside, Calif., Nov. 15, 2023, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative conference.

Associated Press

China, an issue that Rahul Gupta, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, identified at a congressional hearing this year as another major problem.

Fentanyl emerged as a widespread problem in the U.S. about a decade ago as there were crackdowns on prescribing opioid painkillers, which were linked to soaring death numbers already.

In the early days, it was largely shipped from China to the U.S., easily concealed in envelopes and small packages. Fentanyl's potency makes it appealing to drug suppliers because it's easy to ship. And because it's made from chemicals in labs, it doesn't rely on growing crops for drugs such as heroin, cocaine or marijuana.

Pushed by then-President Donald Trump, China agreed in late 2018 to crack down on shipments of finished fentanyl and some of its precursors. After that, more production moved to Mexico — with the raw materials still coming largely from China.

Synthetic opioids are now

the biggest killers in the deadliest drug crisis the U.S. has ever seen. In 2014, nearly 50,000 deaths in the U.S. were linked to drug overdoses of all kinds. By last year, the total was more than 100,000, according to a tally by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than two-thirds of those deaths — more than 200 per day — involved fentanyl or similar synthetic drugs.

The powerful drugs are showing up in different places in the nation's supply of illicit substances. It's in counterfeit pills and cocaine, in some cases causing overdoses in people who have no idea that they're using fentanyl. It's also sought out by some people with opioid use disorder. In many areas of the country, it's mostly replaced the supply of heroin.

Xi said at a dinner in San Francisco Wednesday: "China sympathizes deeply with the American people, especially the young, for the sufferings that fentanyl has inflicted upon them."

Biden said of the agreement: "It's going to save lives, and I appreciate Pres-

ident Xi's commitment on this issue."

The tone has changed from earlier this year. In April, Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry criticized the U.S. for blaming China for the precursors, saying they're "ordinary chemicals sold through normal trade." And China blasted the U.S. over the summer for imposing sanctions on Chinese anti-drug efforts rather than praising their efforts.

A key part of the new announcement from China is that it is sharing information on the drug trade. It's resumed submitting information to the International Narcotics Control Board for the first time in three years and agreed to launch a counternarcotics working group with the U.S.

"As we know only too well, the supply piece of this is just one part and we're not going to solve the fentanyl overdose issue solely by reducing the supply," said Regina LaBelle, who directs the Addiction and Public Policy Initiative at Georgetown University's O'Neill Institute and served as acting director of the Office of Na-

tional Drug Control Policy under President Biden.

She said that it's significant that China and the U.S. are dealing with fentanyl, but it's an issue that demands cooperation from other countries, too. Xi was meeting Thursday with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez and Biden was scheduled to meet with him on Friday.

The rise of fentanyl across the U.S. has intensified efforts to reduce the danger. Naloxone, a drug that reverses overdoses, has become more widely available, including without prescriptions.

A growing number of places are allowing drug screening kits so users can find out if their drugs include fentanyl. Harm reduction groups also preach that people using drugs should use a small amount first to test for adverse effects and that they should not use alone.

"We're making investments in the United States in addressing prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction," LaBelle said. "All of those things have to continue to be ramped up." □

Barefoot workers and cracked floors were found at a factory that made recalled eyedrops, FDA says

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Indian company that recently recalled eyedrops sold in the U.S. had a host of sanitation and manufacturing problems, including barefoot workers, cracked floors and altered records, U.S. health inspectors found.

Food and Drug Administration officials uncovered more than a dozen problems at the Mumbai plant operated by Kilitich Healthcare India, according to a preliminary inspection report posted by the agency. The factory produced more than two dozen varieties of eyedrops that were subject to an FDA safety warning last month.

The products were sold by CVS Health, Target, Rite Aid and other national retailers who said they would be removed from store shelves. New details about the plant's problems emerged after FDA inspectors visited the plant late last month. Agency inspectors documented factory workers not wearing masks, gloves and gowns and working barefoot in areas that are supposed to be sterile. A manager told FDA officials "that this is their standard practice," according to the report.



A sign for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is displayed outside their offices in Silver Spring, Md., Dec. 10, 2020.

Elsewhere, FDA staff noted cracked floors, plus water stains and peeling paint on walls and ceilings.

The FDA report also suggests factory officials would routinely omit or falsify contamination test results.

For instance, a factory microbiologist said that a bacterial sample that could trigger "an alert or action limit" would not be documented. Instead, officials would perform additional cleaning and then record a figure that

indicated sterility. This occurred "two or three times per month," according to the microbiologist.

The FDA's initial findings are likely to be followed by a formal report and a warning letter to the company. On Monday, Kilitich Healthcare officially recalled the lubricating eyedrops, sold in 27 different brands and formulations. The agency published the notice to its website Wednesday. The recall is something of a formality, since the FDA had

already alerted U.S. stores and consumers to the problem. FDA officials don't have the legal authority to force drug manufacturers to recall their products, and instead rely on companies to "voluntarily" do so. The FDA had recommended the recall on Oct. 25 and shortly thereafter blocked imports from Kilitich.

Drugmakers and distributors "are responsible for the quality of their products," but the FDA recently asked Congress for the authority

to mandate such recalls, an agency spokeswoman said in a statement Thursday. Kilitich Healthcare said it has not received "any reports of adverse events" related to its products. The drops could cause vision loss or blindness, according to the FDA.

The lubricating drops were distributed in the U.S. by Velocity Pharma, based in Farmingdale, New York, and carry expiration dates between November 2023 and September 2025.

FDA records show no prior inspections for Kilitich Healthcare.

The FDA is responsible for assuring the safety of foreign products shipped to the U.S., though it has long struggled to keep pace with international pharmaceutical supply chains that increasingly begin in India. Recently, the agency has been working to make up for missed inspections that weren't conducted during COVID-19. Agency records show FDA didn't conduct any inspections in India during fiscal year 2021, at the height of the pandemic. Inspections rose to 177 in fiscal 2023, but that was still about half the number of inspections that the FDA was conducting the year before COVID-19. □

Associated Press

Demonstrators demanding a cease-fire in Gaza shut down bridges in Boston and San Francisco



Police officers clear demonstrators blocking the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge while protesting against the APEC summit on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

By **JANIE HAR**

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Demonstrators seeking a cease-fire in Gaza blocked

bridges on both sides of the U.S. on Thursday, including a major span into San Francisco during a global trade summit involving President

Joseph Biden and other world leaders. At least 50 protesters were arrested on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and 15 vehicles were towed after demonstrators blocked all lanes on the upper deck, with some drivers tossing their keys into the bay, said California Highway Patrol division chief Ezery Beauchamp.

Traffic was snarled for hours after more than 200 demonstrators demanded that Biden, in San Francisco for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' conference, call for an immediate cease-fire in the war

between Israel and Hamas. In Boston, about 100 protesters stopped traffic on the bridge connecting the city to Cambridge for more than two hours during the morning rush. They chanted "cease-fire now!" and held a banner with the words "Jews say: ceasefire now" and they called on one of Massachusetts' two senators, Democrat Elizabeth Warren, to do more to halt the hostilities.

On the West Coast, Aisha Nizar, of the Palestinian Youth Movement, said in a statement that President Biden was "hosting cocktail

parties in San Francisco" while thousands of people were being killed in Gaza. Protesters unfurled huge banners and some of them lay on the ground with white sheets draped over their bodies as part of a "die-in."

Beauchamp, of the highway patrol, called the Bay Area protest highly coordinated and said he expected that more participants would be arrested. He said the patrol supports free speech rights but not a traffic shutdown that could prevent emergency vehicles from crossing. □

Spain's Pedro Sánchez reelected prime minister despite amnesty controversy

By CIARÁN GILES and JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's Pedro Sánchez was reelected as prime minister by the nation's parliament on Thursday, when he leveraged a controversial amnesty deal to get the critical support from Catalan separatists to stay in power.

Sánchez, Spain's Socialist leader since 2018, was backed by 179 lawmakers in the 350-seat lower house of parliament to form a new minority leftist coalition government. Only right-wing opposition deputies voted against him.

The vote came after nearly two days of debate among party leaders that centered almost entirely on an amnesty deal for Catalonia's separatists that Sánchez agreed to in return for vital support to unlock another four-year term.

Sánchez won the vote after clinching the support of six smaller parties including two Catalan separatist parties that command 14 seats in recent weeks, allowing his Socialists to once again team up with the left-wing Sumar (Joining Forces) par-



Spain's acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez applauds as conservative opposition leader Alberto Nunez Feijoo approaches to congratulate him after Sanchez was chosen by a majority of legislators to form a new government after a parliamentary vote at the Spanish Parliament in Madrid, Spain, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

ty in government.

It remains to be seen if Sánchez can maintain enough support to exhaust his mandate that can run until 2027 given that some of his backers are parties that want to break Catalonia, or the Basque Country, away from Spain.

Spain's inconclusive national elections on July 23

left a highly fractured parliament. The center-right Popular Party received the most votes in the elections but failed to get enough support to form a government because of its alliances with the far-right Vox party, which finished third.

The amnesty deal would clean the slate for hundreds of Catalan separat-

ists in legal trouble following the northeast region's illegal 2017 secession bid that sparked Spain's biggest crisis in decades. That includes benefiting former Catalan regional president Carles Puigdemont, who is a fugitive from Spanish law and considered public enemy No. 1 by many Spaniards.

Despite lingering disagreements, the two Catalan parties as well as two Basque ones said they would back Sánchez on Thursday but let him know that he must fulfill the economic and political deals reached with each of them.

The two Basque parties pointed out that their support was also key to keeping a progressive government in power and making sure the right wing remained out of office.

The agreements with the Catalan parties include opening talks on the possibility of holding an authorized referendum for independence for the wealthy northeast region, but within the legal framework of Spain's Constitution. Sánchez has repeatedly said that he would not permit a vote that could break up Spain.

Analyst Oriol Bartomeus, professor of political science of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, said that since Sánchez has made it over the hurdle of forming a government he has a chance, albeit small, to keep it afloat for the full term. □

Potential kingmaker in Dutch coalition talks comes out against anti-Islam firebrand Wilders

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The center-right lawmaker whose new party is riding so high in polls ahead of next week's Dutch election that he could become a kingmaker in coalition talks said Thursday that he has fundamental differences with anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders, whose party also is polling strongly.

With next Wednesday's vote shaping up as a neck-and-neck race, party leaders are already looking toward what could be protracted negotiations to form the next ruling coalition. The Dutch electoral

system and the sheer number of parties involved 26 at this election virtually

guarantee the need for coalition governments.

Pieter Omtzigt, who only



Pieter Omtzigt, leader of the recently formed Dutch political party New Social Contract, center, and Nicolien van Vroonhoven-Kok, center right, attend a meeting in Amersfoort, Netherlands on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

formed his New Social Contract party over the summer, is very narrowly behind the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte in the polls. Wilders' Freedom Party (PVV) is in fourth place. A center-left bloc of the Labor Party and Green Left, led by former European Union climate tsar Frans Timmermans, is currently third in the polls.

Omtzigt made his name by campaigning on behalf of citizens caught up in government scandals and is calling for reform of the Dutch political system. He is expected to play a pivotal

role in talks to form a new coalition after the vote.

He said that Wilders' anti-Islam policies go against freedoms of expression and religion that are enshrined in the Dutch constitution. One of Omtzigt's policy pledges is to create a constitutional court in the Netherlands that would be able to rule on government plans before they become law.

Answering questions submitted by voters to Dutch broadcaster NOS, Omtzigt was asked if he 100% ruled out working with Wilders' PVV party.

"The PVV rules itself out," he answered. □

Finland will close 4 border crossings with Russia, accusing Moscow of organizing a flow of migrants

By **JARI TANNER**
Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Finland will close four crossing points on its long border with Russia to stop the flow of Middle Eastern and African migrants that it accuses Moscow of ushering to the border in recent months, the government said Thursday. Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo and Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said the southeastern crossing points Imatra, Niirala, Nuijamaa and Vaalimaa — will be closed at midnight Friday on the Finland-Russia land border that serves as the European Union's external frontier. It runs a total of 1,340 kilometers (832 miles), mostly through thick forests in the south, all the way to the rugged landscape in the Arctic north. There are currently nine crossing points, with one dedicated to rail travel only. "Operations of the Russian border authorities have changed," Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo told reporters, adding that the four crossings would remain closed until Feb. 18.



A van at the Nuijamaa, a border station between Russia and Finland in Lappeenranta, Finland, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

He referred to dozens of migrants, mostly from the Middle East and Africa, who have arrived in the Nordic nation over recent days without proper documentation and have sought asylum after allegedly being helped by Russian authorities to travel to the heavily controlled border zone. This represents a major

change, since Finnish and Russian border authorities cooperated for decades in stopping people without the necessary visas or passports before they could attempt to enter either country. Finnish authorities said this week that Russia has in recent months started allowing undocumented travelers to access the border

zone and enter crossing stations where they can request asylum in Finland. The Finnish Border Guard says migrants have in the past days arrived mainly from Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Turkey and Somalia, and nearly all have arrived at the border zone on bicycles that Finnish and Russian media reports say were provided and sold to them.

Most of them used Russia only as a transit country to enter Finland and the EU, officials said. Some 280 third-country migrants have arrived in Finland from Russia since September, border officials said Thursday. In a post on social media platform X, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said "Russia's instrumentalisation of migrants is shameful. I fully support the measures taken by Finland" and thanked the Finnish Border Guard "for protecting our European borders". Finnish President Sauli Niinistö on Wednesday linked Russia's actions to Finland's NATO membership in April after decades of military non-alignment, a move that infuriated Moscow, which has threatened Helsinki with retaliatory measures several times. He noted that Finland, which joined the Western military alliance in the wake of Moscow's attack on Ukraine in Feb. 2022, must be prepared for "certain malice" from Russia. □

Associated Press

Kenya's high court extends a block on sending police to Haiti

By **EMMANUEL IGUNZA**
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's high court on Thursday extended orders blocking the deployment of police officers to Haiti, even as parliament approved a government request to send 1,000 officers to the Caribbean nation to help deal with gang violence. High Court Judge Chacha Mwita said he would issue a ruling on Jan. 26, effectively delaying the sending of security officers to Haiti, where they are slated to lead a multinational force backed by the U.N Security Council. The planned deployment was first blocked by the High Court in Nairobi in October.

Whatever decision is reached by the High Court in January may be appealed, meaning there could be a protracted battle over sending the troops to Haiti. The court decision came hours after Kenya's parliament passed a motion allowing the deployment of the security officers. But the government was immediately criticized for disobeying the court orders first issued in October that barred the deployment. "The tabling of the motion in parliament today was belligerent. A disregard to the rule of law that clearly states that one arm of government cannot discuss a matter already seized by another arm," said former presidential candidate

Ekuru Aukot, who filed the court case. Herman Manyora, a professor of journalism at the University of Nairobi, said the government had no choice but to respect the court's decision on the delay. "President William Ruto's government has a history of ignoring court decisions, but if it's a law-abiding government, it will wait until the court makes the final decision. Even the debate in parliament is a brazen defiance of the laws of the country." Earlier, the Kenyan parliament approved a government motion from the Committee on Administration and Internal Security approving the government's request to send the

security officers as violence escalates in Haiti. The heated debate saw opposition legislators reject government plans for Kenya to lead the multinational policing team in

Haiti, saying it violated the country's constitution. Supporters of the motion said Kenya had a moral obligation and duty to aid Haiti. □



Residents flee their homes to escape clashes between armed gangs in the Carrefour-Feuilles district of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Aug. 15, 2023.

Associated Press

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to re-

fresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding

women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a “shalup” (porridge) for stomach pain or when you’re feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Relat-



ed to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can

also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen. □

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba’s visitors.

Emergency services

Even though most people don’t even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100
Police Tipline: 11141
Ambulance: 911
Fire Dept: 115
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However,

Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba’s drinking water exceeds WHO’s international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though,

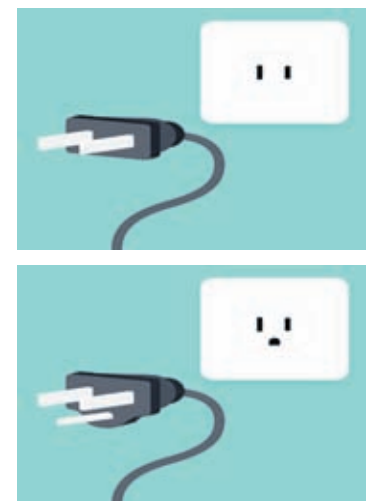
most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety

Aruba is one of the safest



islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □

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baby rainbow carrots, asparagus spears,
cranberry sauce

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The district of Savaneta A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the

Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to

produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams.



Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

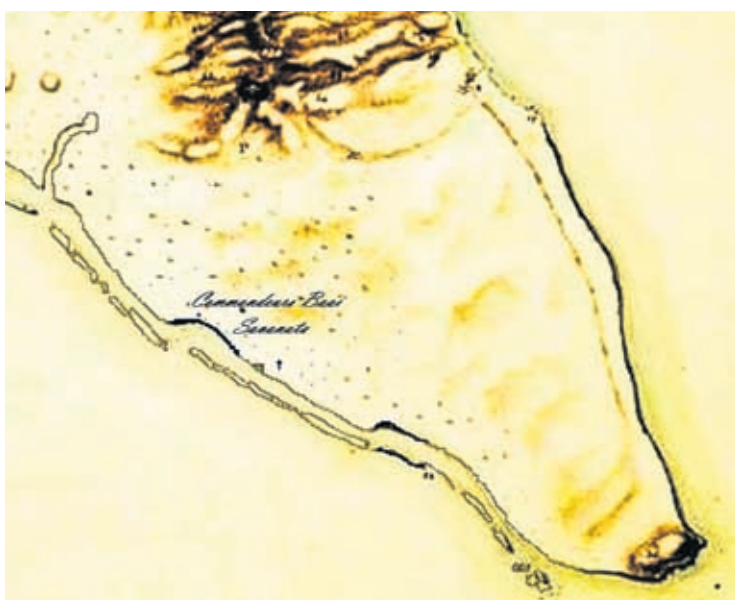
However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In

Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

**Source: Historia di Savaneta
(History of Savaneta) by Adolf
"Dufi" Kock.**



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Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year- round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito



This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year- round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.



Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Flo-

rin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on

the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The

colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: Placa, placa, placa
by the National Library of
Aruba



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 44 Sculptor Henry
 - 1 Chops into fine bits
 - 6 Sore spots
 - 11 Extreme pain
 - 12 River of Provence
 - 13 Essential
 - 14 Dull finish
 - 15 Morse bit
 - 16 Chide
 - 18 Screw up
 - 19 Favoring
 - 20 Auditor's org.
 - 21 Genuine
 - 23 Trap
 - 25 Jazz style
 - 27 Flow out
 - 28 Fare carriers
 - 30 Upper limits
 - 33 "— Kapital"
 - 34 Ump's call
 - 36 Set fire to
 - 37 Treater's words
 - 39 Summer sign
 - 40 Put away
 - 41 Squirrel's find
 - 43 Nearby
- DOWN**
- 1 Corporate shark
 - 2 Disregard
 - 3 Double-reed instrument
 - 4 Compass dir.
 - 5 Waffle topper
 - 6 Radius, e.g.
 - 7 Scorch
 - 8 Ride with a basket
 - 9 Complete
 - 10 Garden starters
 - 17 Two-somes: Abbr.
 - 22 Bagel topper
 - 24 Jackson 5 hit
 - 26 Lead the way
 - 28 Squeal grazer
 - 29 Total
 - 31 Dakota city
 - 32 High
 - 33 Brake shapes
 - 35 I love you: Sp.
 - 38 Roughly
 - 42 Farm

P	O	L	E		T	H	E	F	T
A	R	I	A		A	R	E	N	A
U	S	E	S		R	E	A	D	T
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				D	E	A	D	H	E
S	E	G	U	E	S		R	I	O
C	A	R	P	S		M	O	O	D
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N	E	W	S	B	E	A	T		
				L	E	A	N	M	E
J	O	V	I	A	L		I	C	E
A	L	E	C	K	S		L	O	R
W	E	E	K	S			K	N	O

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18				19			20		
21			22		23		24		
		25		26		27			
	28				29		30	31	32
33				34		35		36	
37			38					39	
40					41	42			
43						44			
45						46			

11-17

AXYDI.BAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

G Q S R S D M R Z E J R S C J

V S S R P J L M D L P J M H J L M D L

R S P M B J N F V J D V J V K Z R G D

S E L J E — T S P D C Z E E S Z Q P V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LEARN TO DO THE COMMON THINGS UNCOMMONLY WELL.
— GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Thousands of Starbucks workers go on a one-day strike, one of busiest days of year for the chain

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Workers at more than 200 U.S. Starbucks locations walked off the job Thursday in what organizers said was the largest strike yet in the two-year-old effort to unionize the company's stores. The Workers United union chose Starbucks' annual Red Cup Day to stage the walkout since it's usually one of the busiest days of the year. Starbucks expects to give away thousands of reusable cups Thursday to customers who order holiday drinks. The union said it was expecting more than 5,000 workers to take part in its "Red Cup Rebellion." Workers were expected to picket for part of the day and visit non-union stores the rest of the day, the union said. Around 30 stores



Starbucks employees and supporters link arms during a union election watch party Dec. 9, 2021, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

also staged walkouts on Wednesday. Juniper Schweitzer, who has worked for Starbucks for 16 years, said she loves the company and its ideals but believes it's not living up to them. "They have promised the world to us and they have not delivered," said Sch-

weitzer, who was picketing outside her Chicago store on Thursday. Frequent promotions like Red Cup Day or buy one-get one free offers put added stress on workers, she said, who have no ability to switch off mobile orders or otherwise control the workflow. □

Big Pharma scrambles to feed demand for weight-loss treatments amid rising U.S. obesity rates



In this Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, a subject's waist is measured during an obesity prevention study in Chicago.

Associated Press

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Obesity rates in the U.S. have been rising steadily for well over a decade and some of the world's biggest drug developers are tapping into the growing treatment market. Novo Nordisk reported another surge in profits and revenue during its most recent quarter with a big assist from Wegovy, an injectable treatment for weight loss approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2021. Obesity care sales rose 174% through the first three quarters of 2023 for Novo Nordisk, driven by the U.S. market. Demand for Wegovy, which is a high-dose version of the diabetes treatment Ozempic, has been high enough to warrant ongoing supply restrictions while the company works to increase production. □

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The world's first gene therapy for sickle cell disease has been approved in Britain

By **MARIA CHENG**
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain's medicines regulator has authorized the world's first gene therapy treatment for sickle cell disease, in a move that could offer relief to thousands of people with the crippling disease in the U.K.

In a statement Thursday, the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency said it approved Casgevy, the first medicine licensed using the gene editing tool CRISPR, which won its makers a Nobel prize in 2020. The agency approved the treatment for patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia who are 12 years old and over.

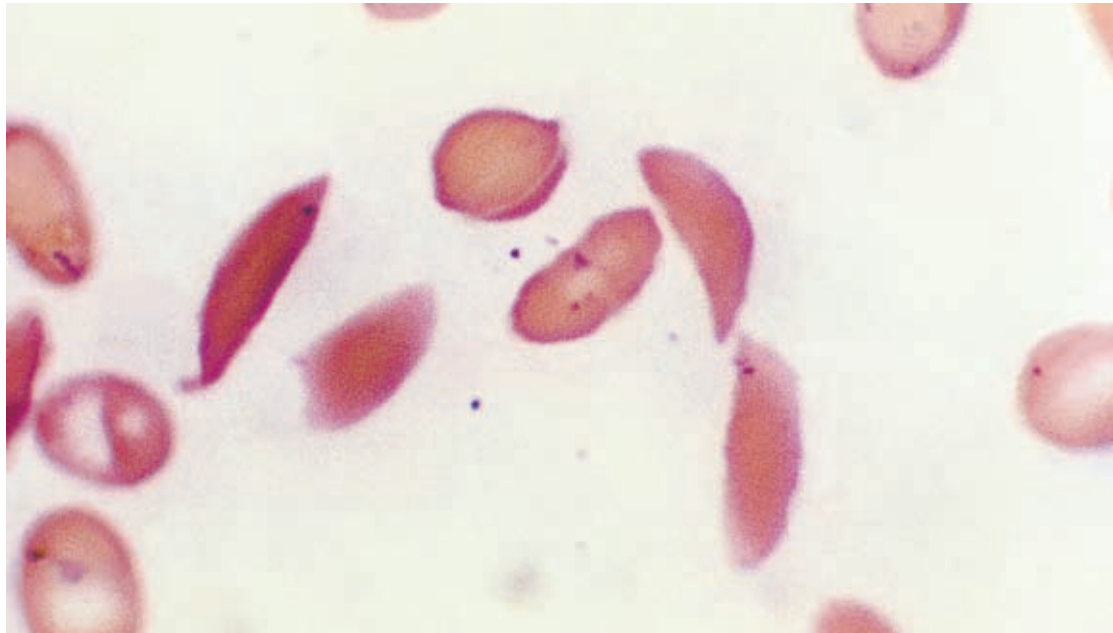
Casgevy is made by Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Europe) Ltd. and CRISPR Therapeutics. To date, bone marrow transplants, extremely arduous procedures that come with very unpleasant side effects, have been the only long-lasting treatment.

"The future of life-changing cures resides in CRISPR based (gene-editing) technology," said Dr. Helen O'Neill of University College London.

"The use of the word 'cure' in relation to sickle cell disease or thalassemia has, up until now, been incompatible," she said in a statement, calling the MHRA's approval of gene therapy "a positive moment in history."

Both sickle cell disease and thalassemia are caused by mistakes in the genes that carry hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carry oxygen.

In people with sickle cell which is particularly common in people with African or Caribbean backgrounds a genetic mutation causes the cells to become crescent-shaped, which can block blood flow and cause excruciating pain, organ damage, stroke and other problems. In people with thalassemia, the genetic mutation can cause severe anemia.



This microscope photo provided on Oct. 25, 2023, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows crescent-shaped red blood cells from a sickle cell disease patient in 1972. Associated Press

Patients typically require blood transfusions every few weeks, and injections and medicines for their entire life.

Thalassemia predominantly affects people of South Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern heritage.

The new medicine, Casgevy, works by targeting the problematic gene in a patient's bone marrow stem cells so that the body can make properly functioning hemoglobin.

Patients first receive a course of chemotherapy, before doctors take stem cells from the patient's bone marrow and use genetic editing techniques in

a laboratory to fix the gene. The cells are then infused back into the patient for a permanent treatment. Patients must be hospitalized at least twice once for the collection of the stem cells and then to receive the altered cells.

"This is so exciting. It's a new wave of treatments that we can utilize for patients with sickle cell disease," said Dr. James LaBelle, director of the pediatric stem cell and cellular therapy program at the University of Chicago. He said Britain's approval suggested the U.S. authorization was likely "imminent." Casgevy is currently being

reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; the agency is expected to make a decision early next month, before considering another sickle cell gene therapy. □



ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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In Ridley Scott's 'Napoleon,' the emperor has no clothes but plenty of ego

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

For such a famed historical figure, Napoleon has made only fleeting appearances in movies since Abel Gance's 1927 silent film. Stanley Kubrick had grand designs for a Napoleon epic that went unmade. (Steven Spielberg is attempting to revive those plans as a series). Napoleon and his bicorne hat more icon of history than a real character mostly only pops up in time-traveling odysseys like "Time Bandits" or "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

The party, though, is finally on in Ridley Scott's "Napoleon," starring Joaquin Phoenix. Scott doesn't do anything small, not even famously diminutive French emperors. And his two-hour-38-minute big-screen biopic serves up a heaping historical spectacle complete with bloody European battles and massive military maneuvers.

But don't mistake "Napoleon" for your average historical epic. Our first sense that this may not be a grand glorification of a Great Man



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from "Napoleon."

Associated Press

of history comes early in the film, when a 24-year-old Bonaparte leads the siege on the British troops controlling the port city of Toulon. When Napoleon, then a major, charges forward in the fight, he's visibly terrified, even panting. He looks more like Phoenix's anxious protagonist in "Beau Is Afraid" than the man who would become France's Caesar. Napoleon doesn't storm the gates so much as lurch desperately at them. And for the rest of Scott's film and Phoenix's riveting performance, Napoleon's actions are never much

more complicated than that. He assumes power cavalierly. His coup d'état against the French Directory in 1799 is a ramshackle farce. He flings his armies around the continent without the slightest concern. He's prone to petulant rages, screaming at the British: "You think you're so great because you have boats!" "Napoleon" subscribes more to the Not-So-Great Man theory of history. This Napoleon isn't extraordinary nor is he much of a man. He's a boyishly impulsive, thin-skinned brute, careening his way through

Europe and leaving battlefields of dead soldiers in his wake. When he, while on a campaign in Egypt, is informed over lunch that his wife, Joséphine (Vanessa Kirby), is having an affair back in Paris, he responds curtly to the messenger: "No dessert for you." For more than 200 years, characterizations of Napoleon have ranged from genius reformer born out of the French Revolution to marauding tyrant whose wars left three million dead. Napoleon, himself, helped shape his legacy while exiled on St. Helena with a

self-serving memoir. Some of the titans of 19th century literature reckoned with him. Victor Hugo wrote Napoleon lost at Waterloo because he had grown "troublesome to God." Tolstoy, in "War and Peace," was less impressed, calling him, "that most insignificant instrument of history."

In "Napoleon," which begins with Marie Antoinette at the guillotine and ends with Napoleon on St. Helena where he died at age 51 in 1821, it's startling how much disregard the movie has for its protagonist. Hollywood historical epics have traditionally leaned toward aggrandizement, not the undressing of fragile, deluded male egos who exclaim over dinner: "Destiny has brought me here! Destiny has brought me this lamb chop!" Here is a sweeping historical tapestry no one does it better today than Scott with a damning, almost satirical portrait at its center. That mix Scott's spectacle and Phoenix's the-emperor-has-no-clothes performance makes "Napoleon" a rivetingly off-kilter experience. □

Roger Waters denied hotel stays in Argentina and Uruguay over antisemitism allegations, report says

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Hotels in Argentina and Uruguay reportedly rejected reservations for Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters over accusations of antisemitism leveled at the British singer known for his pro-Palestinian views.

Waters was due to stay in Argentina's capital of Buenos Aires ahead of shows scheduled for Nov. 21-22 as part of his "This Is Not a Drill" tour, but the reservations fell through, with hotels citing a lack of availability, the Argentine newspaper Pagina 12 reported.

Hotels in Montevideo, in neighboring Uruguay, also refused to host him but did not provide a reason, a Pa-

gina 12 story on Wednesday quoted Waters as saying. The singer said that as a result he was still in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he per-

formed a few days ago. "I had a dinner date on the 16th with José Mujica, the former president of Uruguay, who is a friend of



Roger Waters performs during a live concert in Assago, near Milan, Italy, Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

Associated Press

mine. And I can't go (...) because the Israeli lobby and whatever they call themselves have canceled me," Waters told Pagina 12. The president of the Central Israelite Committee of Uruguay, Roby Schindler, sent a letter to the Sofitel hotel urging it not to host Waters, Pagina 12 said. Waters "takes advantage of his fame as an artist to lie and spew his hatred towards Israel and all Jews," Schindler said, according to Pagina 12. "By receiving him, you will be, even if you do not want to, propagating the hatred that this man exudes," Schindler added. Waters has been dogged by accusations of antisemi-

tism for years, including criticism by the U.S. government earlier this year. The State Department said Waters has "a long track record of using antisemitic tropes to denigrate Jewish people." Speaking to Pagina 12, he vehemently denied that. "They do it because I believe in human rights, and I speak openly about the genocide of the Palestinian people," Waters said. In a recent interview with journalist Glenn Greenwald, Waters said the surprise attack by Hamas militants in Israel on Oct. 7 "was blown out of all proportion by the Israelis inventing stories about beheading babies." □

Oakland Athletics' move to Las Vegas unanimously approved by MLB owners

By STEPHEN HAWKINS and RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— The Oakland Athletics' move to Las Vegas was unanimously approved Thursday by Major League Baseball team owners, cementing the sport's first relocation since 2005.

A 75% vote of the 30 teams was necessary for approval of A's owner John Fisher's plan, which was endorsed by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred.

"There was an effort over more than a decade to find a stadium solution in Oakland. It was John Fisher's preference. It was my preference," Manfred said at a news conference following the vote. "This is a terrible day for fans in Oakland. I understand that and that's why we've always had a policy of doing everything humanly possible to avoid a relocation and truly believe we did that in this case. I think it's beyond debate that the status quo in Oakland was untenable."

After years of complaints about the Oakland Coliseum and an inability to negotiate government assis-



Athletics owner John Fisher speaks during a news conference after a Major League Baseball owners meeting in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

tance for a new ballpark in the Bay area, the A's plan to move to a stadium to be built on the Las Vegas Strip with \$380 million in public financing approved by the Nevada government. The team plans for the ballpark to open in 2028. MLB approved Clark County as its operating territory following the move and Nevada as its television territory.

"I understand that this is an incredibly difficult day

for Oakland fans, and I just want to say we gave every effort and did everything we could to try and find a solution there," Fisher said. "I'm very excited about the opportunity in Vegas. The fans there are terrific." Players' association head Tony Clark declined comment on the decision.

The Athletics' lease at the Coliseum runs through 2024, and they will remain next season at the outdat-

ed and run-down stadium where they have played since moving to California in 1968. It remains unclear where the team will play after that until a new ballpark opens. Manfred said the a variety of alternatives are being explored, including possibly of the A's staying at the Coliseum in the interim period. He said the preference will be to "find an 81-game home" for the team, unlike the unique sit-

Associated Press

uation with the Blue Jays in 2021, when pandemic travel restrictions caused MLB to shift home games at the team's spring training facility in Dunedin, Florida, and then its Triple-A ballpark in Buffalo, New York, before going back to Toronto at midseason.

Las Vegas will become the A's fourth city, the most for a MLB team. The A's played in Philadelphia from 1901-54, then moved to Kansas City for 13 seasons before going to California. The new stadium will be the team's fifth after Columbia Park (1901-08), Shibe Park (1909-54), Memorial Stadium (1955-67) and the Coliseum. Since the Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers for 1972, the only other team to relocate was the Montreal Expos, who became the Washington Nationals in 2005.

The A's in 2006 proposed a ballpark in Fremont, about 25 miles south in the East Bay, but abandoned the plan three years later. San Jose, 40 miles south of Oakland, was proposed in 2012 but the San Francisco Giants blocked the site because it was part of that team's territory. □

Fury and Usyk to fight on Feb. 17 in Saudi Arabia to unify all 4 major heavyweight boxing titles

LONDON (AP) — The fight between Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk to unify all of the major heavyweight boxing titles will take place in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, on Feb. 17, promoters announced Thursday.

The last fight to crown an undisputed heavyweight champion was in 1999, when Lennox Lewis beat Evander Holyfield to win three major titles — the WBC, WBA and IBF belts. Lewis had to relinquish his WBA title the following year in a dispute over his next title defense.

This time, it's for four belts. Fury (34-0-1) of England is the WBC champion and

Usyk (21-0) of Ukraine holds having previously been the the WBA, IBF and WBO belts, undisputed champion at



British WBC and lineal heavyweight champion Tyson Fury, second from left, and Ukrainian heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk, second from right, attend a press conference at Outernet London, Thursday Nov. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

cruiserweight in 2018 and 2019.

Fury and Usyk were expected to meet on Dec. 23 but the fight was delayed after Fury's disappointing performance in a split-decision victory over MMA star Francis Ngannou in Saudi Arabia last month.


"I am destined to cement my legacy as the No. 1 fighter in this era and to do that, I've got to beat this little man," said Fury, who has previously referred to Usyk as a "middleweight." "That's it.

Simple as. He's a tricky man, a good boxer, slick, all of that, but I've seen many people like him be-

fore. When they fight the big men, they struggle and he's going to struggle on Feb. 17. He will lose, for sure."


Usyk is coming off a defense against Daniel Dubois in Poland. The Ukrainian has beaten British opponents in all of his last four fights, including when he won his heavyweight titles from Anthony Joshua in 2021 and defended them in a rematch in Saudi Arabia the following year.

"I have no goal," Usyk said. "Only the way. And my way is 'The Undisputed.' That is why this was the only fight for me. When that bell rings, I will bring the fire." □



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Oranjestad – Get ready to indulge in thrilling gaming experiences and a chance to strike it rich at LIV Casino, nestled within the luxurious Barceló Aruba resort. With a wide array of games and a captivating atmosphere, LIV Casino promises an unforgettable entertainment journey for visitors seeking excitement and good fortune.

LIV Casino boasts an impressive selection of 123 slot machines, each waiting to make someone a lucky winner. Among these, 114 are Dollar machines and 9 are Florin machines cater to various preferences and betting levels, offering a diverse gaming experience that suits every player's style.

The casino is not just about slots – for those who relish the thrill of traditional table games, LIV Casino delivers on every front. Step up to the challenge at the Blackjack Table, where strategy meets chance, or take a spin at the Roulette Table for an electrifying game of luck. Additionally, the Three Card Poker Table offers a unique blend of strategy and excitement, adding a new dimension to the gaming floor.

Adding to the anticipation, every table at LIV Casino features its own progressive jackpot, promising the po-

Experience Unrivaled Excitement and Win Big at LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba

tential for monumental winnings that could change a player's life in an instant.

The gaming action at LIV Casino comes alive from 11 AM to 3 AM, ensuring non-stop excitement throughout the day and into the night. For those looking to experience the thrill of table games, the tables are open from 4:30 PM until closing, inviting players to try their hand at a variety of games while enjoying the vibrant casino ambiance.

"Try your luck with us at LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba," encourages Marc Charley, Casino General Manager of LIV Casino. "We have crafted an environment where guests can immerse themselves in the thrill of gaming and experience the rush of winning big. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, our

diverse selection of games caters to all preferences."

LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba stands as a hub of entertainment, where visitors can not only try their luck but also revel in the world-class amenities and hospitality that the Barceló brand is renowned for.

About LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba:

LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barceló Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □



Draymond Green didn't hurt Rudy Gobert. He hurt the Warriors, again



Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson, front, and Draymond Green, back, get into an altercation with Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert, middle, during the first half of an in-season NBA tournament basketball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

Associated Press

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Golden State's Draymond Green is probably going

to be enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame one day, even with career averages of around 9 points, 7 rebounds and 6 assists per game. He'll have, at minimum, four NBA championships and two Olympic gold medals when he's all done.

He'll also have baggage. So much baggage.

The latest addition to that pile came Wednesday when the NBA handed Green a five-game suspension, one that'll cost him about \$770,000 in missed salary and won't help a

Warriors team that is already without an injured Stephen Curry and not off to the hottest of starts at just 6-6. Green earned every bit of that suspension after putting Rudy Gobert in a headlock during the Warriors-Minnesota game on Tuesday night. It was his second ejection in a span of five days and the 19th — including playoffs — of his career, which is nearly twice as many as any other two currently active players in the league combined. "Not much to say," Gobert said after the game. "It was

clown behavior."

Some say clown, some say Draymond being Draymond. Among Green's other famous incidents: He punched then-teammate Jordan Poole last season, plus earned suspensions for stomping on Domantas Sabonis' chest in last season's playoffs and another after a "retaliatory swipe of his hand to the groin" of LeBron James to go over the flagrant-foul-point limit in the 2016 NBA Finals, having to sit down with the Warriors up 3-1 in a series that they would give away. □